IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

   receiving a transport stream having unknown transport characteristics representable by characteristic values;

   identifying the characteristic values using a transport stream acquisition routine that iteratively selects a combination of characteristic values from a plurality of possible combinations of characteristic values to determine a combination of characteristic values for the transport characteristics that enables synchronization to the transport stream.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the characteristic values includes identifying the characteristic values in less than 10 seconds.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein identifying the characteristic values includes identifying the characteristic values in less than 2 seconds.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the characteristic values includes initializing the transport stream acquisition routine based upon a manually initiated request.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the characteristic values includes identifying a first combination of characteristic values and determining if synchronization to the transport stream has been acquired using the first combination of characteristic values.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the unknown transport characteristics include[[s]] a bit ordering of a portion of data, and wherein the transport stream includes a plurality of portions of data.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein a portion of data is 8 bits of data, and the bit ordering is one of the first bit of 8 bits of data being the most significant bit, or the last bit of the 8 bits of data being the most significant bit.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 8, wherein the unknown transport characteristics include[[s]] a latching edge of a clock signal used to sample the transport stream.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 10, wherein the unknown transport characteristics include[[s]] a polarity of a active logic level of an error signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the unknown transport characteristics include[[s]] a polarity of a transport packet start signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 11, wherein the unknown transport characteristics include[[s]] a polarity of a transport packet valid signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein identifying the characteristic values includes the determining if a framer is locked to the transport stream.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, wherein the framer is locked to the transport stream if a predefined number of packets with a predefined start code are received.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the predefined number of packets are sequentially received.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 15, wherein the predefined number of packets [[are]] is programmable.

18. (Original) The method of claim 17, wherein the predefined number of packets is stored in a register.

19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the predefined start code is 47h.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for synchronizing to a transport stream, the method comprising

setting a first transport stream characteristic register to a first value;

setting a second transport stream characteristic register to a second value;

determining if a synchronization indicator is generated within a first amount of time;

repeating the step of determining for a number of times when the synchronization indicator is generated, wherein synchronization is successful if a synchronization indicator is generated for the number of times;

changing the first transport stream register to have a third value when the synchronization indicator is not generated within the first amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating; and

changing the second transport stream register to have a fourth value when the synchronization indicator is not generated within the first amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating.

21. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving a set of signals to provide a transport stream, the set of signals comprising unknown transport characteristics representable by a set of characteristic values;

identifying the characteristic values using a transport stream acquisition routine that iteratively selects a combination of characteristic values from a plurality of possible combinations of characteristic values to determine a combination of characteristic values for the unknown transport characteristics that enables synchronization to the transport stream; and

synchronizing to the transport stream based at least in part on the identified characteristic values.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein identifying the characteristic values includes identifying the characteristic values in less than 10 seconds.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein identifying the characteristic values includes identifying the characteristic values in less than approximately 2 seconds.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein identifying the characteristic values includes initializing the transport stream acquisition routine based upon a manually initiated request.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Canceled)

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein identifying the characteristic values includes identifying a first combination of values for the set of transport characteristics and determining if synchronization to the transport stream has been acquired using the first combination of values.

28. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the unknown transport characteristics include[[s]] a bit ordering of a portion of data, wherein the transport stream includes a plurality of portions of data.

29. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, wherein a portion of data is 8 bits of data, and the bit ordering is one of the first bit of 8 bits of data being the most significant bit, or the last bit of the 8 bits of data being the most significant bit.

30. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the unknown transport characteristics include[[s]] a latching edge of a clock signal used to sample the transport stream.

31. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 30, wherein the unknown transport characteristics include[[s]] a polarity of an active logic level of an error signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

32. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the unknown transport characteristics include[[s]] a polarity of a transport packet start signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

33. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 31, wherein the unknown transport characteristics include[[s]] a polarity of a transport packet valid signal transmitted as part of the transport stream.

34. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 21, wherein identifying the characteristic values include[[s]] determining if a framer is locked to the transport stream.

35. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 34, wherein the framer is locked to the transport stream if a predefined number of packets with a predefined start code are received.

36. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the predefined number of packets are sequentially received.

37. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 35, wherein the predefined number of packets [[are]]is programmable.

38. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 37, wherein the predefined number of packets is stored in a register.

39. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 35, wherein the predefined start code is 47h.

40. (Previously Presented) A method of synchronizing to a transport stream, the method comprising

setting a first register to a first value representing a first transport stream characteristic;

setting a second register to a second value representing a second transport stream characteristic;

determining if a transport stream synchronization indicator is generated within a first amount of time;

repeating the step of determining for a number of times when the transport stream synchronization indicator is generated, wherein synchronization to the system is successful if a synchronization indicator is generated for the number of times;

changing the first transport stream register to have a third value when the synchronization indicator is not generated within the first amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating; and

changing the second transport stream register to have a fourth value when the synchronization indicator is not generated within the first amount of time, and repeating the steps of determining and repeating.

41. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving a set of signals carrying a transport stream, the set of signals comprising a clock signal and a data signal, the clock signal and the data signal having unknown characteristics;

assuming a set of characteristics to be the unknown characteristics;

receiving a data stream from the set of signals based upon the assumed set of characteristics; and

assuming as the set of characteristics a different set of characteristics and repeating the steps of receiving the data and determining until reception of a transport stream is verified based at least in part on the data stream.

42. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the set of characteristics are based on at least one of a data input, a clock input, a start indicator input, a valid indicator input, or an error indicator input.

43. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the first amount of time is a predetermined amount of time.

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the number of times is a predetermined number of times.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 44, wherein the first amount of time is a predetermined amount of time.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the first amount of time is a predetermined amount of time.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 40, wherein the number of times is a predetermined number of times.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, wherein the first amount of time is a predetermined amount of time.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the unknown set of transport characteristics [[are]]is based on at least one of a data input, a clock input, a start indicator input, a valid indicator input, and an error indicator input.